



Losing Track of Time in the Time of Corona

A member of my staff came up to me and said, "Rabbi, have you forgotten your Wednesday message!" I looked at her and said, "What? Oh, my you're right! I don't know what happened. I lost track of time!" A couple of days ago I was speaking with a member of the congregation who I hadn't spoken to in quite a while. She was sharing with me that she had moved about a year or so ago. I asked her "Did you move before COVID or during?" In that moment I realized that we have a new societal marker for measuring time. Seminal events such as Pearl Harbor, the Assassination of Kennedy, or 9-11 created moments in time that defined our sense of time.

I think this Time of Corona has done so as well.

March 2020 began the big change in our lives. The start of when everything shut down and we were put in this state of both fear and ambiguity. There was a time when we thought the whole mess would be resolved within a few months, and yet, it dragged on... and on. And today, while we are nowhere near as bad off as we were 18 months ago, we find ourselves counting time with reference to COVID.

For now, we count: "Before COVID?" or "During COVID". We are not quite there yet to say "After COVID". But hopefully one day we will.

Which got me thinking. About time. Nationally there are those major events that define our sense of time. In turn they often help shape our national character. But what about personal seminal events? A birth. A wedding. A death. Each of these are moments in time define who we are and what is important to us.

In Judaism, time and remembrance are intertwined. When we look back upon a date-even one that is thousands of years ago (!) we recall what happened and what lessons were learned. I would like to think that this is the case when it comes to our personal lives. Birthdays, anniversaries, Yahrzeits are all opportunities for us to not only reflect back upon these important occasions, but to take a measure of our life journey. The older we get, the easier it is to feel that time goes by "too quickly". But in fact, it is not the pace of life that it is truly important, it is what we do with the days we have left that is of true importance.

It is easy to get lost in time. To let one day roll into another. Especially during COVID when things have not been exactly as they once were. But at the same time, it is important to be "found" in time. To know that our lives and our life events, are moments to be cherished.

Proverbs taught us, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of Wisdom".

Words that are as true today, as they were before COVID, and God willing, the day after COVID ends.